

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 FEA-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 INT-08 SAM-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 120933Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS PARIS 6142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR XF

SUBJECT: JOBERT'S MARCH 8 RADIO INTERVIEW: MIDDLE EAST PORTION

REF: PARIS 6026

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S MARCH 8 INTERVIEW ON COMMERCIAL RADIO "EUROPE NUMBER 1".

2. JOBERT WAS ASKED WHETHER HE HAD INTERRUPTED HIS SERIES OF MIDDLE EAST VISITS BECAUSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF GOF POLICIES IN THAT AREA. JOBERT SAID SUCH INTERPRETATION SEEMED SOMEWHAT TENDENTIOUS. HE HAD INTERRUPTED HIS VISITS BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS ONLY AND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL HE HAD VISITED EVERYWHERE IN ME WHERE HE WAS INTERESTED IN GOING; JOBERT ADDED THAT HE MIGHT NOT REMAIN MINISTER THAT LONG. HE SAID HE IS WORKING OUT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE FOR VISITING LEBANON, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH HE WILL SCHEDULE OTHER TRIPS, PROBABLY INCLUDING EGYPT. JOBERT SAID ISRAELI FONMIN WOULD COME TO PARIS FIRST AS GOI DESIRED; IF EBAN COMES IN NEXT

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FEW WEEKS, JOBERT WOULD RETURN THIS VISIT IN AUTUMN.

3. JOBERT WAS ASKED IF PESSIMISTIC GOF APPRAISAL OF PRESENT SITUATION IN ME WAS REACTION TO ITS EXCLUSION FROM CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS; QUESTIONER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CONSIDERED JOBERT HAD SABOTAGED HIS MISSION DURING JOBERT'S RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS. JOBERT STRONGLY DENIED HIS QUESTIONER HAD PROPERLY DEFINED GOF ATTITUDE. HE TURNED QUESTION ASIDE WITH STATEMENT THAT HE HOPED GOF ATTITUDE WOULD BE BASED ON SERENITY AND WISDOM.

4. JOBERT REPLIED IN GREAT DETAIL TO QUESTION ABOUT STATE-TO-STATE OIL NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING PRICE PAID IN SAUDI AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT MORE THAN A YEAR AGO FRENCH OIL COMPANIES ASKED ARAMCO ("WHICH TO SOME EXTENT REPRESENTS USA IN SAUDI ARABIA") TO ASSURE FRANCE'S INCREASING NEEDS FOR OIL OVER LONG TERM; THIS WOULD BE FROM PORTION OF SAUDI OIL WHICH ARAMCO SELLS FOR SAUDI ARABIAN ACCOUNT RATHER THAN FROM PORTION RESULTING FROM ARAMCO'S CONCESSION. ARAMCO NEVER REPLIED. JOBERT SAID HE HAD ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES HOW GOF COULD BE EXPECTED TO ACT OTHER THAN BY GOING DIRECTLY TO SAUDI GOVERNMENT; JOBERT SAID HE STILL IS AWAITING AN ANSWER. HE CITED \$11.70 AS PRICE OF CONTRACT BETWEEN FRENCH COMPANIES AND SAUDI "PETROMIN" APPLICABLE ONLY UNTIL SAUDI ARABIAN PRODUCTION RETURNS TO 1973 LEVEL. THEREAFTER JOBERT SAID PRICE WOULD BE 93 PERCENT OF POSTED PRICE.STONE

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